

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
January 29, 2003, 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers**

**PRESENT**

Chrystal Pushor  
Madhu Vedak  
Barbara Stevens  
Gil Palmer  
Joan Chelton  
Pat Bryant

**ABSENT**

Dave Clingan  
Cindy Felsten  
Jay Myers  
Marie Schroeder  
Dick Underdahl-Peirce

**The meeting was unofficial due to lack of quorum.**

Commissioner Pushor brought the meeting to order.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, Secretary Cindy Winterrowd

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

No report / no quorum

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

No report/ no quorum

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Tinsley reported that she had spoken to approx. 450 elementary students as part of the celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr. and approx. 85 Rotary Club members. Commissioner Palmer on behalf of the Commission, attended the celebration at Calvary Church. He, Deputy Director Smith, and a few other Commissioners also attended the MLK Community Breakfast.

Director Tinsley reported that she had participated in the last Audit & Review Committee meeting.

The Commission staff closed one case in January.

Commissioner Bryant stated that he had spoke to students in Hope regarding Martin Luther King Jr. He stated that it was not a preplanned activity but occurred following some questions he had from students. He did an impromptu presentation in the school's cafeteria.

**ANNUAL DINNER/ESSAY CONTEST:**

Director Tinsley reported that judges are needed for the essay contest and also the importance of those volunteers coming to the judging. Some judges volunteer but then do not actually come to the judging which does not allow for discussion of essays.

The judging will be March 3 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall.

**LAWS AWARD:**

The Executive Board will meet on Tues., February 18th and decide on a recommendation for the Laws Award recipient. Their recommendation will then be brought before the whole Commission at the full Commission meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for nominations is February 4<sup>th</sup>. Director Tinsley stressed that Commissioners examine the programs and works of each nominee and compare those to the Laws Award criteria. Commissioners discussed the nomination letters which have been received to date.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Commissioner Stevens asked about the caseload and if the numbers this past year were consistent with previous years. Director Tinsley responded by saying that the number in 2002 was lower but the number does vary from year to year. In her tenure, the lowest was 8 and the highest was around 16. In 2002, a much higher number was filed with EEOC because of they involved issues of age and reasonable accommodation. Director Tinsley also stated that there were no sexual harassment cases filed with CHRC in 2002 which is very unusual. The question then arises; are companies getting better at addressing that issue in the workplace or is this year was just unusual? Normally 50 % of CHRC cases involve some form of sex discrimination.

Commissioner Vedak reported that she and Rob Asby, an EEOC specialist who is certified by the Human Resources Institute, will begin offering free diversity trainings to social service organizations, and would like support or sponsorship from the Commission. Cummins Technical Center has asked that Commissioner Vedak come and speak on diversity.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE/SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2003-04:**

Commissioner Pushor chose her Nominations Committee. Those Commissioners chose their slate of officers to be presented for a vote in February.

**CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE:**

Commissioner Chelton reported that the Cultural Awareness Committee has not met; therefore, no report.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.